

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 3 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claim 1 has been amended, and Claims 13-18 have been added by the present amendment without introducing new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Tomita (U.S. Patent 6,335,070); and Claims 6-9, 11 and 12 were allowed, and Claim 3 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 6-9, 11 and 12 are allowed, and that Claim 3 includes allowable subject matter. In light of that indication, Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter of Claim 3 that was indicated as allowable, and Claim 3 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10 is rendered moot in view of the amendment to Claim 1 and canceling of Claim 10.

New Claims 13-18 are submitted herewith. New Claims 13 and 14 find support at page 21, lines 9-17 of the specification, and Figure 9, for example. New Claims 15 and 16 find support at page 23, lines 5-24 of the specification, and Figure 9, for example. New Claims 17 and 18 find support at page 21, line 18 to, page 22, line 18 of the specification, for example. No new matter is added.

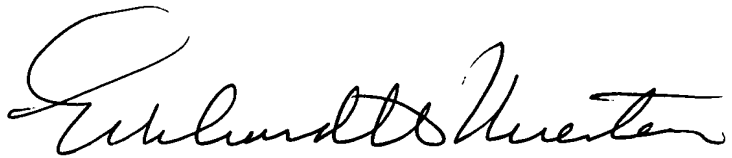
Further, it is respectfully submitted that Tomita does not disclose or suggest the features recited in new Claims 13-18.

Accordingly, new Claims 13-18 are also believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in light of the prior indication of allowed claims and allowable subject matter, the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK/GS/fm
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